

Two important criticisms can be made. There is a tendency to streamline the discussion of some subjects too much. The physiology of urinary secretion deserves more than the scant one and one-half pages it receives, and certainly the discussion of such an important subject as acute pyelonephritis should not be compressed into two pages. The more obvious defect is that one is disappointed to find so little attention to treatment. The author obviously anticipates this complaint, and attempts to explain it by saying that he prefers to emphasize basic principles, that the work is primarily for students, and that "treatment is ever changing." However valid these arguments, one cannot avoid feeling that a little more attention on that point would make the book somewhat more valuable even to the students and certainly to the clinician.

In spite of these minor defects the book creates a very favorable impression. It is really unique in its field, and should definitely be in the library of every hospital and medical school. The general practitioner and even the urological specialist will also find it well worth owning.

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THE PREMATURE BABY. By V. Mary Crosse, O.B.E., M.D. (London) D.P.H., M.M.S.A., D. (Obstet.) R.C.O.G., Full Time Officer, Birmingham Regional Hospital Board. Second Edition. The Blakiston Company, 1950. \$2.75.

"The Premature Baby" by Mary Crosse is a delightful study of prematurity in another country. It should be especially helpful to the western population of the United States where there are still large, sparsely populated areas in which it is almost impossible to have the same type of premature nursery as the modern American hospital of the large city has. The book is a marvelous revelation of what can be done with minimal means.

The book contains detailed information on the premature baby, his size, weight, proportions, vitality, respiratory, circulatory and digestive difficulties, and then continues with the setup of wards with minimal apparatus, the technique of protecting the baby from infection, feeding the premature baby, clothing and dressing him, methods of keeping the crib warm, supplying oxygen without all the modern paraphernalia. There is a chapter on diseases and anomalies of the premature and a final chapter on statistics from various countries.

It is a book well worth having in every nursery and makes an excellent reference book for practitioners in the small towns and rural communities.

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A TEXTBOOK OF SURGERY BY AMERICAN AUTHORS. Edited by Frederick Christopher, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor of Surgery, Northwestern University Medical School. 1,465 illustrations. Fifth Edition. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1949.

This textbook of surgery remains as "tops" among the surgical textbooks. The contributors of previous editions were a veritable "Who's Who" in the teaching of surgery. To the fifth edition there have been added other illustrative names and chapters. Among others may be mentioned the chapters on The Esophagus by Dr. Richard Sweet; Gastric Hemorrhage and Wounds by Dr. Robert M. Zollinger; Gastric Ulcer by Dr. Arthur W. Allen and Claude Welch; Surgical Diseases of the Pancreas by Dr. Alexander Brunschwig; Urologic Diagnosis by Dr. Reid N. Nesbit, and many others of prominence.

It is noted that contributors to older editions have revised their particular chapters to conform with newer developments. One might appreciate a change of illustrations by some of the older contributors as some of the illustrations and pictures have appeared through quite a number of editions. As in previous editions, the textbook does not cover more than the essentials of surgical technique. The book was not intended to emphasize techniques of surgery

but to give a general review of the latest developments in surgery. This is covered in the usual excellent manner of presentation found in previous editions.

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SELECTED PAPERS OF HAVEN EMERSON, A.M., M.D., D.S.M. Published on the Occasion of his Seventy-Fifth Birthday by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, Battle Creek, Mich. 1949. \$3.00.

One of Emerson's intimates has termed him the General Practitioner of Public Health. These 39 papers selected from a bibliography of over two hundred highlight many facets of his versatile career. They cover laboratory and epidemiological studies, community health organization, public health and visiting nursing, hospital problems, mental hygiene twenty years before it became fashionable, medical student instruction and many other subjects. The writings are superb literary compositions in the tradition of the Emersons. They are a combination of prophecy and hard-headed New England practicality demanding first things first. They reflect his years of private practice which have made his counsel so valuable in representing the points of view of practicing physicians. While of primary interest to public health workers, this collection will enable all general practitioners to appreciate their bond with this great general practitioner of public health. It is a fitting tribute to Dr. Emerson, whose contributions continue undiminished.

An additional contribution of Dr. Emerson which will soon be published should be mentioned here. The seventh edition of "The Control of Communicable Diseases," like the preceding six, will be Dr. Emerson's product, summarizing the current knowledge and most widely accepted bases of control of communicable diseases. It and the "Selected Papers of Haven Emerson" will be worthwhile 1950 acquisitions to every physician's library.

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DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF BRAIN TUMORS AND CARE OF THE NEUROSURGICAL PATIENT. By Ernest Sachs, M.D., Research Associate in Physiology, Yale University; Formerly Professor of Clinical Neurological Surgery, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis. Second Edition. The C. V. Mosby Co., St. Louis. 1949. \$15.00.

This is the second edition, after 17 years, of a good book. Printing and format are adequate. There are 358 illustrations. Most of these are good. Some are atrocious. Particularly, this reviewer wishes that publishers would reproduce roentgenograms as they appear in front of a viewing box, not "in reverse."

The book's value to a general physician or surgeon can best be approached by stating that, in the reviewer's experience, general men referring patients to a neurological surgeon fall into two main groups: Those who want, at the earliest opportunity, to be relieved of an onerous responsibility; those who want to know what the referred patient is "up against," what his chances are, what is going to happen to him. For referring men in the second group, Dr. Sachs has a lot of information—not only about what is in store for the patient, but about the agony that a conscientious neurological surgeon may experience in deciding upon and carrying out the program.

For neurological surgeons (now almost as numerous as general practitioners in California) the book has an especial value based on two considerations. Dr. Sachs is a man of extensive experience; he is forthright and heavily opinionated.

Sachs refers to others as pioneers in the field. He, of course, is one of the great pioneers. When such experience is coupled with an account of that experience that is self-critical, honest and thoroughly biased in the direction that the author believes points toward the truth, the neurological surgeon has something that is worth ten of the flossier, immaculately illustrated and evasive texts.